

in the ever expanding area of cultural resource management (CRM). Much current archaeological survey is aimed specifically at assessing the archaeological significance of areas to be developed. CRM archaeologists are rarely able to design their own survey area, objectives or even sampling strategy but instead have to satisfy clients and regulations. In particular they often have to assess significance and here we see a clear consideration of measuring significance in all its aspects, archaeological, economic, recreational and ethnic. Here we see, however, the clear North American/British bias of the book with only US, Canadian and UK laws and professional organisations mentioned. Yet this should not put off readers from other parts of the world who will find the rest of the book a mine of information on archaeological survey.

Chapter 10 considers the evaluation of surveys. The final chapter, on 'Surveying the future', is a bit disappointing (better geophysics, more use of Geographic Information Systems and more mathematics in survey evaluation) but then archaeologists should be better at looking into the past than into the future.

Essentially this is a good book with a clear aim. It is well illustrated and clearly written avoiding much of the jargon thought necessary by several authors writing on archaeological survey in the past. It will be a valuable undergraduate textbook and manual for CRM archaeologists and all planning an archaeological survey.

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Obituary

ROBERT T. FARRELL
1939–2003

Robert T. Farrell, FSA, Professor of Archaeology, English and Medieval Studies at Cornell University, USA passed away unexpectedly at his home on July 31, 2003, aged 64.

Born in the Bronx, New York, he graduated from Fordham University in 1960 (BA) and 1967 (PhD), at which point he joined the faculty of the English Department at Cornell, where he pursued his primary interest in Anglo-Saxon and Nordic literature. His published record includes *Beowulf, Swedes, and Geats* (1972), *Daniel and Azarias* (ed. 1974), *Bede and Anglo-Saxon England* (BAR 1978) and *The Vikings* (1982). These works and his numerous papers reflect the interdisciplinary approach that Farrell helped to establish and cultivate

within Cornell, as part of the wider development of Medieval Studies since the 1960s. Above all, Bob pursued the illumination of text by understanding material culture, and his relentless energy in this regard was perhaps first catalysed by his delight in joining Rosemary Cramp's excavation team at Wearmouth and Jarrow. Many medieval archaeologists will recall the always pleasant experience of the sessions he organised at the International Congress of Medievalists in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Farrell played a pioneering role in bringing together philologists, historians, art historians, and archaeologists from around the world, the fruits of which emerged in the *American Early*

Medieval Studies series, which he founded and co-edited, along with his annual summaries of archaeological fieldwork included in the *Old English Newsletter*. Farrell also made fundamental contributions to the nascent sub-discipline of Underwater Archaeology, both in England (The Penlee wreck) and in America (Shoals Nautical Archaeology Project), and more recently in Ireland (The Crannog Archaeology Project). Indeed, his passion to understand the past led him to dive deeply and endure the cold too long, conditions that unhappily contributed to a chronic back problem in later life.

In the 1970s Bob designed a writing programme at Cornell that became the basis for The Freshman Writing Program, which still flourishes, and is regarded as one of Cornell's great undergraduate teaching successes. His early awareness of the need to support student literacy combined with his astute insight into how universities functioned; Farrell was able to ensure that the Writing Program was a venue where students at all levels benefited. Not only were undergraduates given focused seminars on writing, but as their instructors, postgraduate students were allowed to design courses to reflect their own areas of interest. It is an ideal and responsible training environment for the next generation of university professors.

In passing away two nights before his summer class ended, Bob fulfilled his dream to teach until he died. No doubt, his dreams that night were full of what he was going to say in class the next day. Our memories are of a man who was not only our mentor and guide, but also a father-figure and friend. At once motivating and urging his students to keep up the good work, suggesting alternatives or different approaches, and testing them on their

conclusions, he was at the same time caring, asking how they were really doing, if they were sleeping enough, and eating well. This last question, for those who had the opportunity to know the man, was of course rhetorical when asked on the nights when they were invited to dine with his family at his home. An extraordinary chef, Bob even combined these talents with his love of teaching to offer the occasional cooking class. One never left unsatisfied, one never left the plate empty, and on those occasions when the meal was a medieval feast, complete with bread trenchers, one never even left the plate. His ability to relate the many adventures of his life, complete with a large helping of humour, made for plenty of laughter as well; he was indeed the *sincgyfa* at good feasting.

Robert Farrell was a man who had a passion for life; a passion that translated into his deep caring for those around him. In addition to the good meals and all of the academic guidance, we can still hear his voice asking if we were enjoying ourselves. Were we still passionate about our chosen path in life? His was a steady hand and one that will be missed in many ways.

Bob is survived by his wife Shari and daughters Eva and Erica. His departure is a great sadness, but his memories are rich, and his contribution to medieval studies will endure for a long time to come.

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